



# ATTITUDES OF DURHAM BUSINESSES TOWARD A BAG FEE

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## OVERVIEW

## METHODOLOGY

## CHARACTERISTICS OF BUSINESSES SURVEYED

## RESULTS

## CONCULSION AND NEXT STEPS

# METHODOLOGY

- **Survey creation** [tinyurl.com/durhamplastics](http://tinyurl.com/durhamplastics)
  - Two-minute survey on sustainability practices, attitudes toward fees, and concerns
- **Survey distribution**
  - **Targeted 210 businesses**
    - 115 via email
    - 38 via Facebook/Contact Page
    - 50 via postcard
    - 7 in-person
  - **38 responses**



Don't Waste Durham, in collaboration with organizations such as the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, is developing a program to encourage Durham businesses and customers to reduce their usage of single-use plastics.

As a business in Durham, you have been selected to participate in a two-minute survey. Your input will be invaluable in shaping strategies to reduce the impact of litter and build a clean, beautiful Durham.

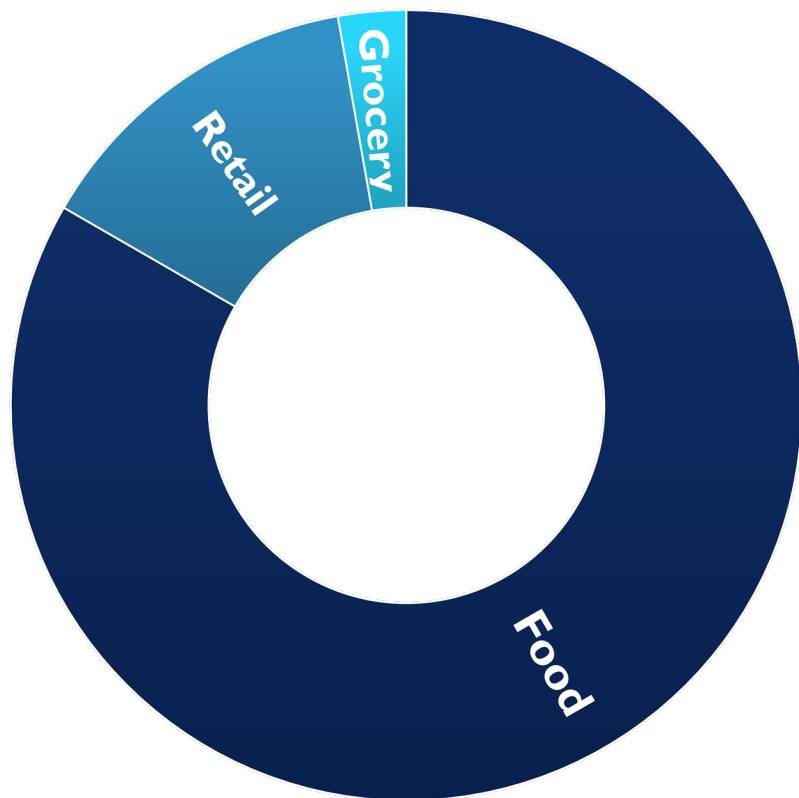
Take the survey here:  
[tinyurl.com/durhamplastics](http://tinyurl.com/durhamplastics)



Duke University Law School  
Environmental Law and Policy Clinic  
Box 90360  
Durham, NC 27708  
3991218

# CHARACTERISTICS: BUSINESS TYPE

Types of businesses that responded (n= 36)



## Food

- 22 Restaurants
- 4 Bars/Breweries
- 3 Bakeries/Cafes
- 1 Caterer

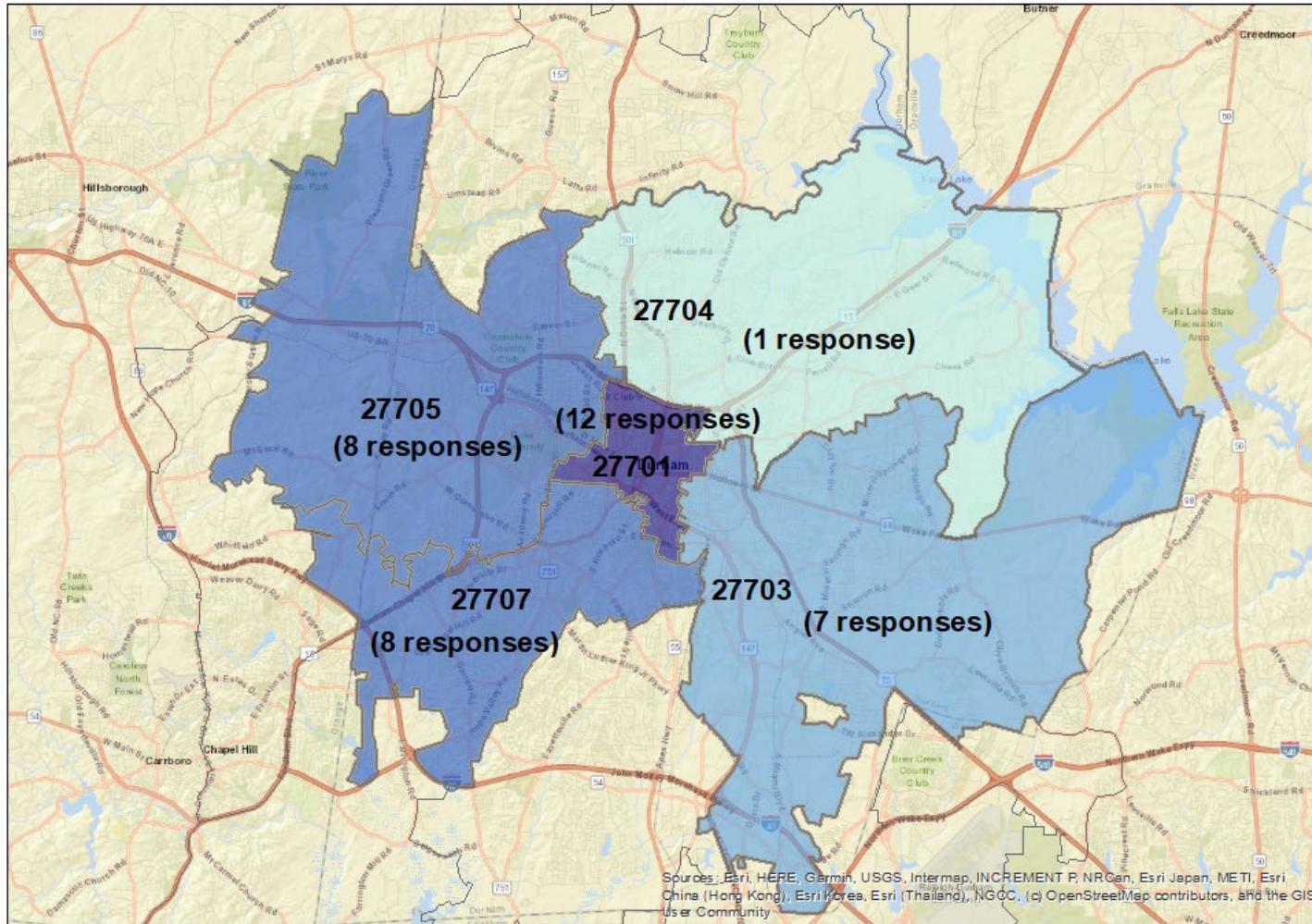
## Grocery

- 1 Grocery Store

## Retail

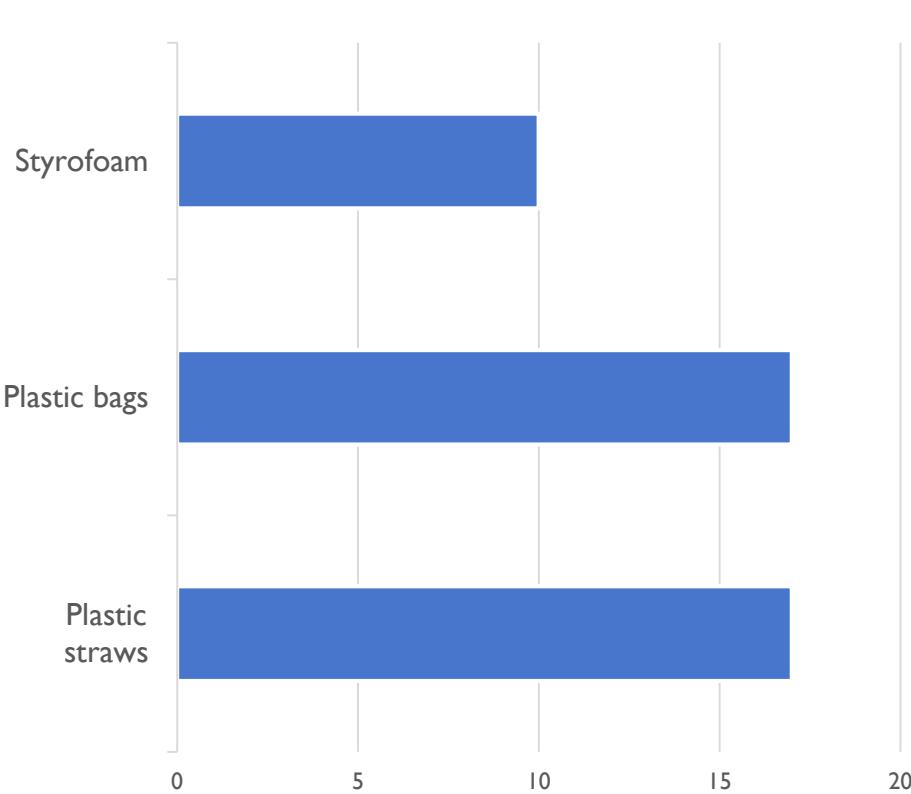
- 2 Clothing Stores
- 2 Gift Stores
- 1 Convenience Store

# CHARACTERISTICS: BUSINESS AREA

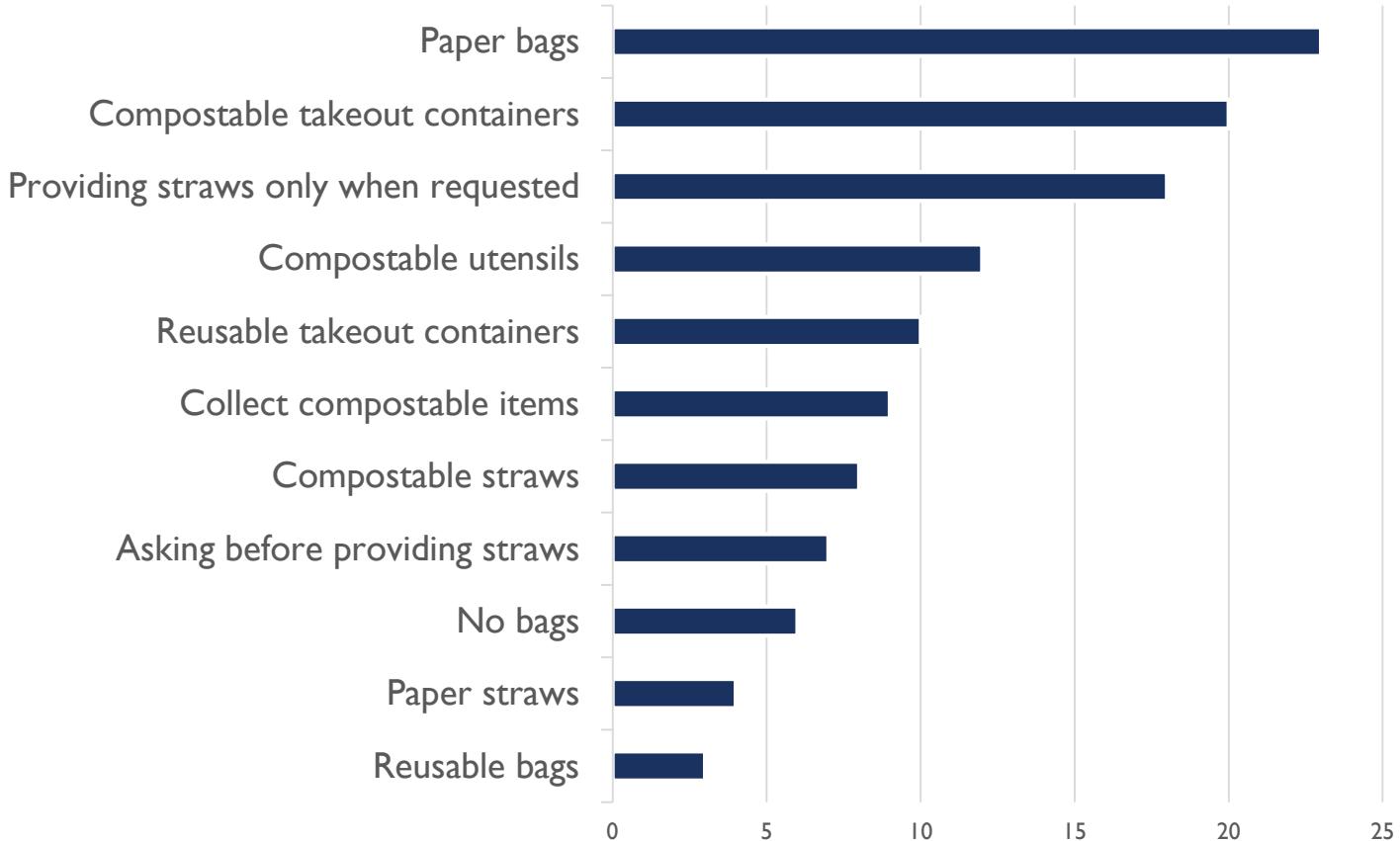


## CHARACTERISTICS: USE OF PLASTICS/ALTERNATIVES

Single-use plastics used by businesses  
(n=23)



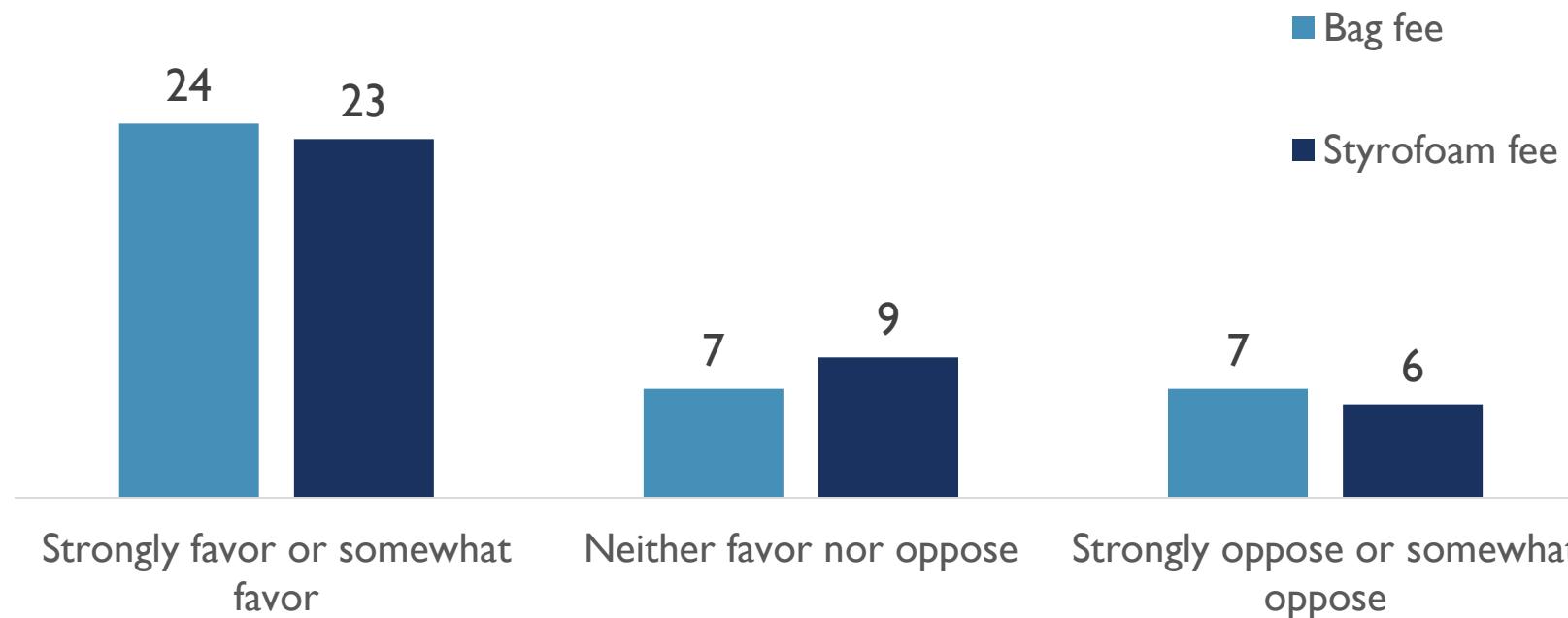
Alternatives used by businesses (n=33)



# RESULTS

## I. There is widespread support for both a bag fee and a Styrofoam fee.

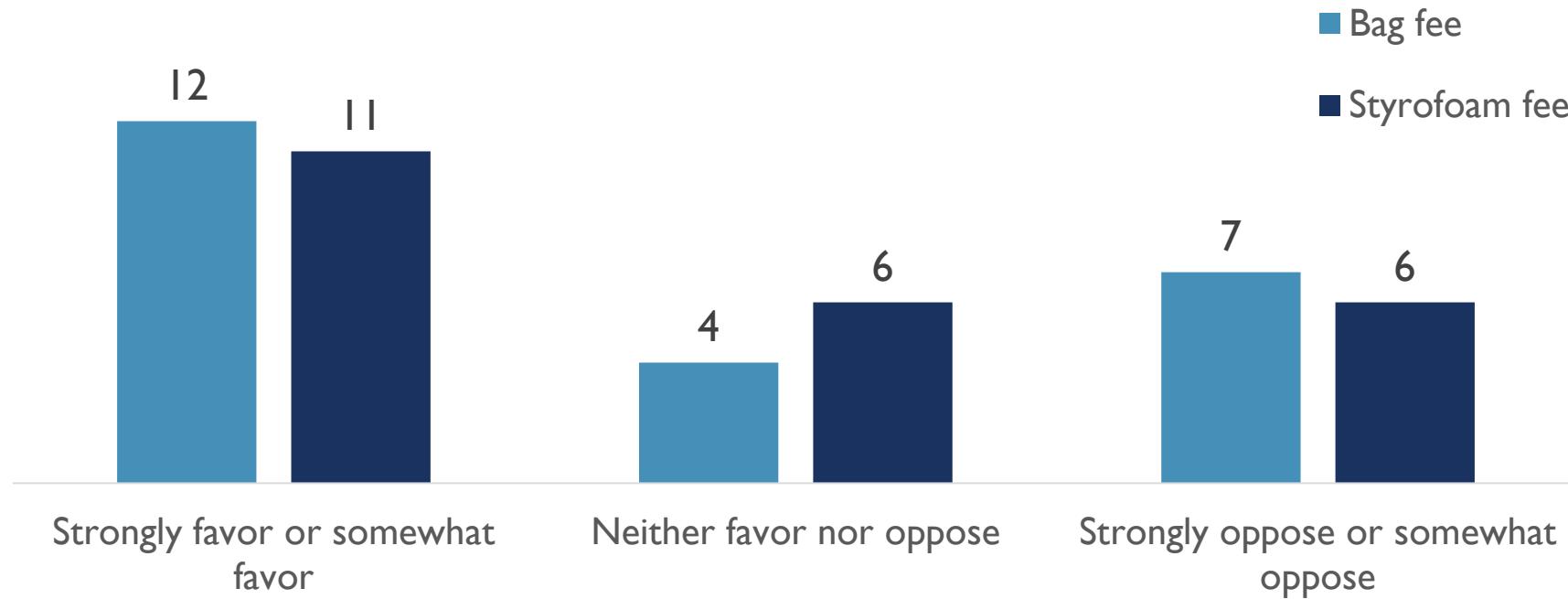
Responses of all businesses to a bag fee and  
a Styrofoam fee (n=38)



# RESULTS

## 2. Most businesses that use single-use plastics are supportive of or neutral to the fees.

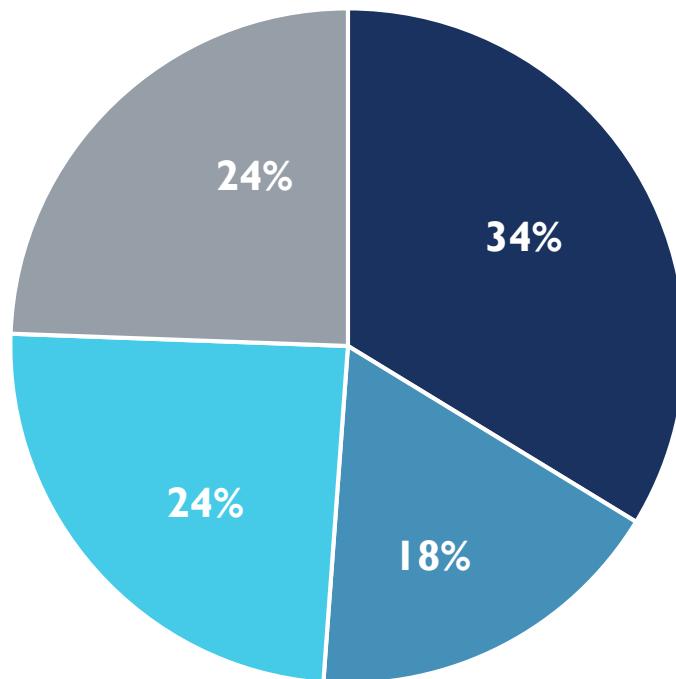
Responses of businesses that use single-use plastics to a bag fee and a Styrofoam fee (n=23)



# RESULTS

## 3. When asked to identify potential concerns, affordability was the primary concern.

Businesses very concerned or somewhat concerned about affordability, hygiene, customer support, and participation from other businesses  
(n=31)



- Affordability of alternatives
- Hygiene
- Customer support
- Participation from other businesses

# INTERVIEWS

## Challenges

- Financial Cost
- Consumer behavior
- Marketing strategies

## Potential Cost Savings

- Reducing the usage of bags
- Training staff

# CONCLUSIONS

## Takeaways

- Most businesses, including those that use single-use plastics, would be supportive of a bag fee.
- Businesses are primarily concerned with financial cost.

## Next Steps

- Continue to survey and interview businesses.
- Increase representation from businesses in different areas, and from non-restaurant businesses.

